

THE MONTANA NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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..... Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at the Post Office for transmission
through the mail at second class rates.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.50 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates made known upon applica-
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Office in the Frank Pick building, rear of
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More than 2,000,000 trade unionists fight capitalists for 364 days in the year, but on the 365th vote capitalists into power.

If the redemocrats of Lewistown cant herd the working class into bull pens they can decorate them with the ball and chain.

It has been pertinently said that the Constitution should follow the flag. But there is no room for doubt that the injunction follows the strike.

It is understood that the czar of Russia is in communication with his brother potentate czar Peabody of Colorado. His imperial nibs considers Siberia far too easy a place of exile for his Socialist prisoners of state, he would prefer to send them to Colorado.

Dissolve the Great Northern Railroad merger on paper to fool the voting kings. Now the announcement by the president that the administration does not intend "to run amuck" at the trusts means that campaign contributions are needed by the G. O. P.

The nation has not enjoyed such an era of prosperity since 1894. Banks are going broke every day and men are discharged by thousands. But then its so practical you know. Socialism would insure every man employment at big wages; that is anarchy according to the rich.

The spy infests every union and under the cloak of loyalty to the working class works for the destruction of the unions. The capitalists desire to remove the unions from their path of exploitation with the hope that the unorganized worker may become a docile slave, singing hosannas in praise of the men who rob him. The result will not justify the effort as men forced to abandon the almost obsolete weapons of the strike and boycott will turn to the Socialist weapon, the ballot.

A commission appointed to investigate the merits of the turbine principal applied to steam engines give particulars of great interest to the public. One of the greatest disadvantages of the turbine is the lack of economy in use of steam at low speed. The difference in weight is not materially to the advantage of the turbine; this will be better understood when we consider that in the turbines necessary to develop the 70,000 horse power for the new Cunarder line steamer will weigh only 300 tons less than reciprocating engines developing the same power. The commission considered that as the steamer was run at a uniform speed of twenty-four and one-half knots the lack of economy at low speed did not need to be seriously considered. Now however we find the reason why the turbine will be used in preference to all other types of engines; the turbine will not need half the engineers to attend to it that the older style engine requires. We may expect to see marine engineers tramping the country soon, as the old compositors did when the Mergenthaler machines went into

common use about 12 years ago. Young energetic men will retain for a few years employment, only when time and slavery have reduced their efficiency to tramp and starve as millions are today.

Socialist Convention.

Chicago the city that represents the progressive spirit of the American people better than any other metropolis, was selected by the Socialists as the meeting place of the greatest convention they ever held on American soil. On May 1st the delegates from every state and territory met to consider the best plans for educating the people in the science of economics, to the end that we may become in fact, as we are in theory free; and to select men to represent the American Socialist Party in the coming election for President. As to who shall be honored with the nomination we cannot say as the Socialist insists that the office must seek the man and not the man the office. There is however no doubt as to the fundamental demand of the Socialist Party, or as to what will be the principal plank in the national platform.

Socialists demand the same everywhere; the hardy norseman may differ in matters of detail with the ardent child of southern Europe but they are as one in demanding the public ownership and control of all public necessities. Immediate demands must necessarily differ in counties having different conditions; thus in Norway and Sweden the Socialists are demanding manhood suffrage, or one man one vote. This demand is also one of the reforms they are struggling for in various countries. In Europe they must fight for this, as they press forward toward the goal, industrial independence. Americans have already won the boon, so do not need to consider it in formulating plans or reforms to work for while still the minority party. Grave questions of the tactics to be pursued by our party will be considered and settled by this convention. Many leaders of Socialist thought, are in favor of a simple declaration of the basic truths of Socialism, setting forth the international demand for public ownership. They would not embody any of the immediate demand planks in the platform, but favor the agreement on a program for the guidance of such candidates as may be elected. Such a program would be separate from platform and protects the party from the support of half baked reformers, who might be carried away by the temporary plans of reform under capitalism, which it will be almost impossible to carry out, owing to the hostility of the governing class, even should they be enacted into law. Another important matter is the plan for control of all Socialists who are elected this should be a private party matter and not a method of public propaganda. Yet it must leave no doubt in the candidate's mind that the party is greater than the man, and means to control his public actions. He must also know just how this control shall be applied, and if not satisfied he can refuse to be a candidate.

To capture the powers of government by the working class, must be the object of the Socialist party as this is the only way in which the can gain control of the machinery of production, capital.

There are others while thoroughly agreeing in the preceding plans would incorporate some immediate demands in the platform, but all insist that it shall be so worded that the people may understand the real object of the Socialist party. If such demands are incorporated it is highly probable that old age pensions for working men and working women, will be one of them, also state or national insurance in case of sickness, or for persons unable to obtain employment. A scheme of this sort is in operation in Germany as a result of the tremendous Socialist vote and was granted by the bosses in the hope that it would prevent the growth of Socialism.

As both of the old parties will have the trust as an issue for the coming campaign, the Socialists may incorporate the plank, let the nation own the trust. The question of setting forth a special plank for the

benefit of the farmers will be considered. Though it is hardly necessary to do more than point out to him how the adoption of the Socialist system will benefit him, and this can be done far better through propaganda. The farmers are members of the exploited class and when our philosophy is presented to them in terms they can comprehend they will rally to our standard as they have to all the revolutionary movements of the past. The farmer does not sell his labor direct to an employer consequently his point of view is different from that of the day laborer. He must be shown how the capitalists rob him through control of the markets; forcing him to sell his product at prices fixed by them, and making him pay them back big profits on all he must buy. The result is that the ownership of some land or other property does not place him in the capitalist class, but leaves his interests identical with the interests of the day laborer. Chief of these interests is that he shall receive the full product of his toil and not 17 per cent. With reference to the Trades Unions it is not necessary to take any decided action. Unions exist for the same reason that trusts exist they are an economic necessity. The Socialists do not desire the unions to reorganize into a political party, but fight to have them consider the fundamental principles of Unionism, this is what the Socialist delegates struggled for in the American Federation convention; and this is what the A. L. U., and W. F. M., have done. The pressure of the citizens alliance movement on the Unions will force them to consider the basic principles, (1) Labor creates all wealth. (2) Labor is entitled to all it creates. (3) Labor must devise means to get possession of its full product. The solution of the problem is Socialism.

A party that numbers among its ranks the greatest thinkers of our time will certainly meet and solve the problems presented wisely.

With confidence in the ability of the convention to present a platform on which the working class can unite, we cry with Marx, "Workers of the world unite you have nothing to lose but your chains, and you have a world to gain."

Trust Grabs Leaf Tobacco.

It was Carnegie that said "you cannot fight the magnitude that rolls and gathers as it rolls, it must conquer." Independent tobacco manufacturers will appreciate the truth of the preceding statement now, that the trust has gained control of the tobacco market in Cincinnati which is the largest for leaf tobacco in the world. Maysville, Ky., another of the great markets, is almost completely dominated by the trust. The independents will complain, and whoop it up for the democrat party, the only original trust busters according to platform, but not according to deeds. Independent manufacturers are doomed soon, like the five toed horse they will have passed from the world of existing things. Free competition means industrial war, a conflict of cut prices, which injure the victor while they ruin his competitor.

American manufacturers are men of brains and as long as there is ability enough among them to run a peanut stand they will not abandon cooperation in production for the obsolete anarchist system of competition. Among many advantages the trust greatly reduces the cost of production. Under the old system the cost of selling the goods added enormously to the expense of manufacture. The trust reduces this cost to a mere fraction. The International Harvester Combine formed some two years ago discharged about 10,000 salesmen thus effecting great saving in the marketing of goods. Again the trust method enables the managers to answer the two most important questions to business men, viz., "what is the probable market for my goods, and how much of the market can I control?" The trust is science applied to business, as near as it can be applied under the capitalist system. Granting the individual the right to own the machinery of production, the concentration of wealth follows as a logical necessity. If it is right

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to own one railroad, it is right to control fifty. If it is just for a capitalist to employ one man and take from that worker the product of his toil, except the fractional part paid as wages; then it is also right for our multimillionaires to exploit the labor of mankind. The necessity of supplying food, clothing and shelter, the material wants of man has made him invent and adopt every improvement in manufacturing. With these improvements in the method of producing wealth came corresponding changes in government and all the multifarious practices of ethics and morals in our so-called civilization. Of these changes the trust is but a passing phase, which every year presents new features, though always tending to still further aid the concentration of wealth.

As the great units of production increase in size the small manufacturer disappears and is driven into the already overcrowded labor market to sell his labor power like the rest of the wage workers. These men refuse to tamely submit to the extortion of the masters and become the most revolutionary element in the working class. Middle class people, as yet, seem blind to the fact that every year sees their number growing less, and that the system which today drives their less fortunate brothers into the proletarian ranks will just as surely reduce them to equal poverty in the immediate future.

The path of the world's progress lies strewn with skeletons of vanquished thousands, and cries of suffering, struggling millions pierce the etherial blue of Heaven. The seething mass of down trodden humanity strike and boycott in evidence of their unsatisfied condition; thus man slowly ascends the tortuous path that leads them to the broad highway of the cooperative commonwealth, when an enlightened people shall have taken their heritage, the earth. Not to be exploited to benefit a favored class, but to be used for the well being of all mankind.

Edward and the Irish.

Edward through the ignorance of the people, King of England, etc., is again visiting Ireland. The censored dispatches tell of the enthusiastic reception the crowned exploiters received in Dublin. From reading the published accounts one would be led to believe that the Irish were actually frantic with joy to have a real live king visit them. The Irish may have serious faults if their critics are to be believed, but love or respect for royalty is not one of them. The celt has been exploited to enrich a few of England's money lords; that English factories might supply the markets of the world, the Irish competition was destroyed by [the act of Union which took the last vestige of political independence from the Irish nation. It is doubtful if England really gained as much, as she has lost in her efforts to destroy celtic independence. These efforts have stained history's page with the foulest crimes that fiendish cruelty could inflict upon a suffering people. Among the many methods of torture devised by these exploiters to quench the fire of liberty which burns in every Irish heart, the pitch cap was the most popular during the rebellion of 1778. This truly christian method of inflicting death on men whose only crime consisted in loving liberty more than gold was perpetrated in the following manner: The victim had his arms bound behind his back, a long strip of cloth

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was soaked in pitch and wound around his head in such a manner that the victim could breathe, but not see; then the cloth was twisted in the shape of a cone and set on fire at the tip. The patriot was turned loose while fiends in human form enjoyed his awful agony as the flames slowly burned out his life. Edward brings to the citizens of Dublin such memories that they would be unworthy of the respect of men, if they cheered this representative of the power that tortured their people in the past and robs them today. To one who, was in Dublin when his royal nibs visited Ireland's capital some years ago this account of the enthusiasm of the vast crowds of people who lined the streets brings to mind the actual reception the obese potentate received then, crowds lined the principal streets but groans and not cheers greeted the representative of blood and murder.

And while the royalists who love Edward waved handkerchiefs and faintly cheered from the windows of Grafton St., vile satellites who love royalty as the redemocrats love graft; and for the same reason, the people expressed their sentiments of hostility toward this thing in royal robes in no uncertain manner. Mul-lamast, Wexford and Dundalk are memories that will have to be dimmed in blood of the exploiter, before the celt can even consider terms of peace. The knowledge that on hard fought fields, where he was armed and had the chance to test

his enemies' powers, victory was his, teaches that it only requires the proper opportunity and weapons for Ireland to take her place among the nations of the earth. That the celt will not be backward in the movement for industrial freedom his action in organizing lately the Irish republican Socialist party is the best evidence.

His enemies may hug the fond delusion that Ireland forgets or can be defeated through the machinations of that church, for which the best blood of the country was shed. We call to the memory of such doubters the fact that as far back as 1863 the Fenians were placed under the ban of the church, despite her efforts 700,000 men were in that revolutionary organization and today, we may depend that the race that has given revolutionary heroes to all the world will not fail in the titanic struggle for industrial independence. Nor is the soul of the people stirred by other emotions than resentment toward this puppet king and a wild longing for liberty.

Edmond Dantes swam through the stage sea to the hand painted rock and climbed up the wooden step at the back of it held his property knife aloft, and shouted in his deepest melodramatic voice. "The world is mine!" Then realizing the absurdity of it, he added in a tone so low that only the prompter heard him: "But I'll hand it back to Mr. Rockefeller, of course, as soon as the play is over."—Chicago Tribune.